**DOCUMENT RESUME**

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| AUTHOR | Burns, E. Timothy |
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ABSTRACT

Concentrating on the development of the brain, this book discusses the impact of children's social environment on their potential for psychological and personal growth. The introduction identifies many child and adolescent behavior patterns that have changed within the last 20 years and are symptomatic of larger societal problems, which include: (1) crime; (2) teenage pregnancy; (3) substance abuse; (4) suicide; (5) lack of motivation; and (6) declines in comprehension. The rest of the book discusses the Brain-Mind-Spirit relationship, which divides the brain into four separate parts--emotional, cognitive, perceptual, spiritual--each of which relates to the child's social environment. This discussion relates children's life experiences with the stage of brain development in which they occur and covers such topics as: (1) bonding; (2) establishing role models; (3) seeking pleasure; and (4) learning to think. The final section of the book discusses how people can support children in their development and assist them in reaching their potential through spiritual growth. A chart of developmental stages is appended, and contains 75 references. (SW)

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